

**Active Transportation & Safety Committee**  
*Approved* Meeting Minutes

**April 10, 2023**

**3:03 PM-4:07 PM**

**Present:** Chairperson Ellen Gugel, Don Burn, Julie Squires, Joe Boccadoro-Assistant Town Engineer, Jennifer Miller-Conservation Director, Fred Lonardo-Comm. Development Director, Cliff Luce-Police Sergeant, Patrick Purcell-Fire Chief

**Also present:** Kristen Belanger-Planning Dept. Administrative Assistant, Shelby Marshall

**Not present:**

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
2023 JUN 13 PM 5:48  
TOWN OF WESTBOROUGH

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Active Transportation & Safety Committee was held virtually on Monday, April 10, 2023. Chairperson Ellen Gugel convened the meeting at 3:03 PM. Chairperson Ellen Gugel read Governor Baker's order.

**Approval of Minutes**

Member Squires made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/13/2023. Member Luce seconded.  
Vote: 8-0

Member Squires made a motion to approve the minutes from 3/13/2023. Member Boccadoro seconded.

Vote: 6-0-2

\*Member Lonardo and Member Purcell abstained.

**BWALT Updates**

Ms. Marshall mentioned that Chairperson Gugel should follow up with Ms. Williams on how to get involved with the Master Plan Implementation Committee since Ms. William is a member.

**Cycling/Pedestrian Improvement-Andy Koenigburg**

Chairperson Gugel will reach out to the MPIC to see how ATSC can get on their agenda. Member Burn mentioned on the 2003 Master Plan, they identified all the arterial streets in town. This was cut down to 20 streets or less and this is where the focus needs to be to get sidewalks or bike paths. The problem is getting across RT 9. That would require working with the state.

Lyman and Otis have been improved but Rt. 135 and Rt. 30 need work.

**Westborough Unplugs Community Bike Ride Monday May 1 @ 4 pm**

Chairperson Gugel had a conversation with Kelly Petraglia. Chairperson Gugel asked who would be responsible for bike police. Sargeant Schipporeit is the Community Engagement Liaison which will have pedal bikes and motor bikes.

Member Luce added that as of May 1, they have a new officer starting so they can help with traffic.

Chairperson Gugel said they are planning a route. Helmet fittings are more appropriate at the Block Party. June 18 is Grads and Dads 5k which is another opportunity. This will be at Lake Chauncy. When offering a helmet fitting, one of the rules to adhere to is the child needs to be present at the fitting.

#### Updates from Committee Members

- **DPW Update:**  
Nothing to update.
- **Planning Board:**  
Nothing to update
- **Conservation**  
Nothing to update

- **Public Safety**

A bicyclist and a motorcycle collided near Meadowbrook Plaza. The accident happened in the evening after dark. The bicyclist had a light in front and back. He pulled in front of the motorcycle.

A pedestrian was struck in the crosswalk by Amazon at 52 Otis. The only complaint from the pedestrian on the scene was a shoulder injury. They actually had a hip fracture that required surgery. The car was going between 40-44 mph when the car hit the breaks and hit the pedestrian around 36 mph.

Ms. Marshall asked if there are any street lights or signalized crossings for the crosswalks in this area?

- Member Boccadoro does not recall if that is in the scope. They are still having discussions with MDM.
- Member Burn said most crosswalks have rapid flashers. However, the federal govt. and the manufacturer said if a vehicle is going over 35 mph, these devices will not protect you.

Member Lonardo said at least one of the lights has gone away with the redesign. Construction won't start until 2024.

Ms. Marshall asked what the cycle is for painting crosswalks. Member Boccadoro said this is part of the sector program. He will follow up to get an official answer.

- **Safe Routes to School**

Member Boccadoro commented that DPW is pursuing a grant for signage thru MassDOT. They are applying for electronic feedback for the speed limit. The program is offering equipment and installation. Westborough applied for signage on Eli Whitney, the

application was accepted. MassDOT wants documentation that it is an official school speed zone.

There will be signs and markings on the road on both ends that designate a school zone.

DPW is hoping the equipment will arrive over the summer.

An Application was submitted in collaboration with the School Dept for "Safe Routes to School" and was accepted. They are doing a site walk to understand pre-existing conditions. The scope of work is still in flux. The original application included an area on Fisher St just short of Church all the way to Assabet. DPW will not be responsible for the design. MassDOT forms the design thru consultant.

Safe routes to school will come back with what they see as the scope of work. Will give a couple of options.

Member Squires asked if there is talk about a rotary for Fisher St, Milk St, Church St.

- Member Boccadoro said yes but there are concerns about the cost.

- **Resident Inquiries**

Member Luce would set up a speed audit on Glen St. on the Grafton side because a resident requested 25 mph sign. Chairperson Gugel mentioned we need data to justify if this is not necessary. Member Luce will have at the end of the month.

A Library Trustee wants a traffic light at Church and West Main. Chairperson Gugel asked if Member Boccadoro could help in developing a response. Ms. Marshall asked the committee to understand what other options may be considered to make that intersection area more safe without using a traffic light.

Member Burn mentioned a refuge for pedestrians at School and Church St. is an example of an improvement to pedestrian safety.

Member Squires asked if public safety could give us an update on crash counts.

- **Members/Letters/Correspondence**

Member Squires thinks the committee should be posting to the webpage and social media which grants are won and how much money for these improvements is being used. The quarterly newsletter from the Town Manager may be a good place to advertise this.

### **Committee Members- Two Openings**

Suzanne Pahr, a resident on South St. is recently retired and has a lot more personal time. She is active biking and walking on town trails. Ms. Pahr is considering participating on this committee.

The next meeting date is Monday, May 15, 2023 at 3 pm.

**Member Squires moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:07pm. Member Burn seconded.**

**Vote: 8-0**

*Respectfully Submitted by Kristen Belanger, Planning Dept. Admin. Assistant*

  
Chairman Ellen Gugel

*\*One board member signature required for approval.*